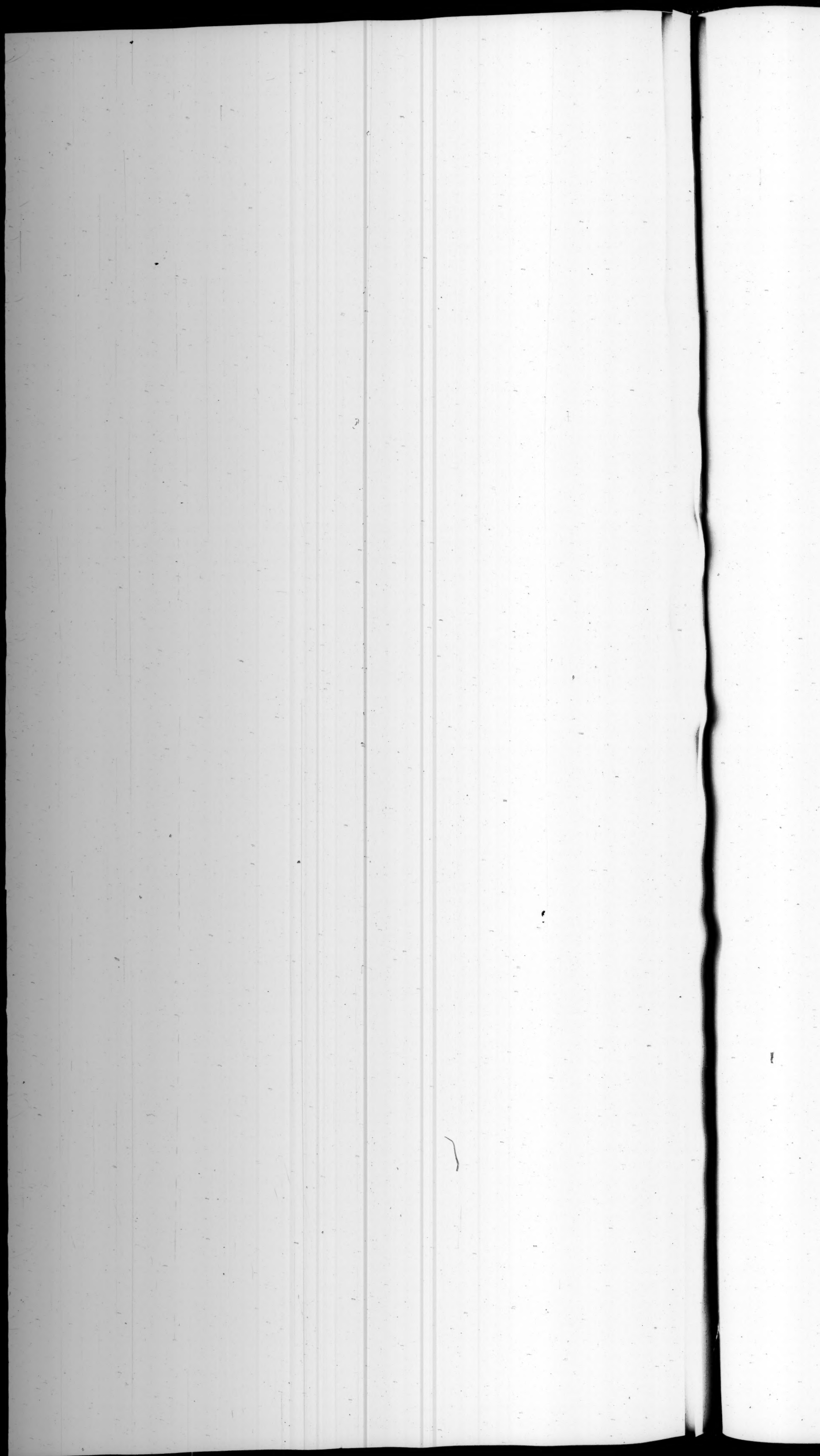


**A Proclamation, set furth by the Kynges Maiestie, with the aduise of his
highnes moste honorable counsaill, for the reformation of Vagabondes, tellers of newes
sowers of sedicious rumours, playets, and printers without licence, & diuers other
disordred persons, the xxviii. day of April. in the v. yere of his highnes most
prosperous reigne.**



He kinges most excellent maiestie, our natural souereigne lord, certainly knowing and vnderstanding by the good aduise and information of the Lordes and others of his priue counsaill, that by the setting furth of Goddes holy worde, and the establishment of a pure and sincere religion, conformable to goddes institution, and the vse of the holy catholique churche, with the administration of Justice, and the obseruation of the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme indifferently amonges al his subiectes, he should not onely discharge his duty to god, but also geue an occasion of perfect quietnes, humble obedience, charitable concord, greate felicitie and welth, to al his people, euery man in his degree: And vpon trust to se the effectes and fruite of the same, hauing caused goddes word to be truely and sincerely taught and preached, and a godly order for the administration of the Sacramentes, and other conuenient and decent orders, to be set furth in the churche. Is moste sorry, and earnestly from the botom of his harte doth lament, and so done all his counsaillors, to heare and se many of his subiectes to abuse dayly by their vicious liuings and corrupt conuersations, that most precious Jewell the worde of god, and by their licencious behauiours, leude and sedicious talks, boldly and presumptuously without feare either of goddes plague, or the swearde of their Prince, to breake continually the Lawes and Statutes of the realme, to dispute of his maiesties affayres, to sow, sprede abroad, and tel from man to man, false lies, tales, rumours, and sedicious deuises, against his maiestie, his counsaillors, Magistrates, and Justices: The sede and rote wherof, as they first had beginning and sprang of the corrupte nature, and yll disposition of naughty men (whiche therefore without short amendement, muste and shalbe firste scourged with the rod of the prince, & afterward by most dreadfull condemnation at goddes hand) So the great fault for the continuance of the people in euill, hath proceeded for want of execution of the good Lawes and Statutes of the realme, and especially the Statutes made against vagaboundes, vnlawfull games, tellers of newes, Inuentors of tales and rumours, vnlawful assemblies, riotes, rowtes, huntenges, fishenges, shooting in handgonnes and Crossebowes, keeping of ale houses, eating of flesh on fishedaies, regratores, forstallers, breakers of the order of religion and sundry other like Statutes, shoulde vndoubtedly not only haue caused eche man, to haue liued in quiet, and to haue applied himself according to his vocation and degree: but also bene causers of great welth and felicitie in this realme. No prince in the worlde is moze lothe to vse the extremite of correction vpon his subiectes, then is his maiestie, nor no counsaillors moze vnwilling to aduise his maiestie therunto, then his highnes counsaillors be, but if the subiectes do grow into suche a contempt of their prince, of his lawes, and of his ministers, as they care not to vse al suche waies as may be daungerous to their souereigne lord and his estate, and desperately and obstinately in thende, to cast them selves into better ruine and destruction: In this case his Maiestie wil seuerely, and sharply loke vpon, correct and punish, these offenders, thereby to preserve his estate, and to saue the rest of the membres of his politique body, whiche be his faythful louing and obedient subiectes. And yet before his maiestie procede so farre furth, he will vse a fatherly facion, and gently admonishe and geue warning ere his maiestie fall to chastising. Wherfore his highnes on goddes behalfe, moost hartely dothe requyre, and neuertheless, by his royal power and princely auctoritie, straightly chargeth and commaundeth



With all and every his subiectes, of what estate, degre, or condicion wher he be, to dreade and feare god and his plagues, to conuert and amende their maners, and to liue according to the profession of christen men, to loue his Maiestie, and to feare his Swerde, to obserue his highnes Lawes, Statutes and Proclamations, to liue every man within the compasse of his degre, contented with his vocation, every man to applie himself to liue obediently, quietly, without mutmur, grudging, sowing of sedition, spreding of tales, and rumors, and without doyng or sayng of any manner of thing (as nere as God wil geue them grace) that may touche the dignitie of his maiestie, his counsaill, his magistrates or ministers, or be hurtful to his neighbour, or in any wise contrary to his maiesties lawes, statutes, or proclamations, whereby his maiesty shal the rather be moued to study, deuise, and put in vtre, by the good aduise of his counsaill, all good wayes and meanes, that may reduce again this realme, vnto that prosperite, estimation, and wealth, whiche by sundry occasions in proces of time hath and is decayed, a thing that his maiestie and counsaill do most desire, and dout not, with some conuenient time to bring to passe, if the naughtines of some euill hartes geue not cause of let and empechement to the same, wherunto, if any shalbe so vnhappy as to geue themselves, his maiestie wil with the sharpe swerde of his princely power, so sharply chastise and correct them, as may be to the feareful example of all other. And for the better aduoiding of al suche inconueniences, his maiestie straightly chargeth and commaundeth, all Iustices, Mayors, Sherrifes, baylives, Constables, Hordborowghes, Tithing men, and al other Officers and ministers of what estate, degre, or condicion soeuer they be, from henceforth, to loke to their offices, and earnestly, truly, and vprightly, to execute and see executed, al his maiesties Lawes, Statutes and proclamations, whiche be within the compasse of their offices, and specially the statutes aboue reherfed, and others of like kinde and qualitie. And for because that within the citie of London, ther is at this present a great number of idle persons & masterles men, which seke rather by Idelnes, & mischief to liue by other mens labours & industries, then to trauail by any paynes taking, to liue like good and obedient members of the comon welth: his maiesty straightlye chargeth and commaundeth all manner of vagaboundes, and masterles men, vpon the paines, not onelie all ready appoynted by the Lawes and Statutes made for suche manner of menne. But also vpon suche paynes as his maiestie may and wil ordeine, to be inflicted vpon them, by his prerogative royal, to departe al suche out of the citie of London, and the Suburbes of the same, within. iiii. dayes after the making of this proclamation home to the place either where they wer bozne, or wher they haue dwelt last thre yerres within the realme, goyng at the least vii. miles a day (if they haue so farre to go from London) and passing not aboue. ii. or iii. or ii. i. at the moste in a company, and not to abide aboue one night in a place, till they come home (except cause of sicknes, the same cause to be allowed by a Justice of the peace, dwelling next to the place where he or they shal fortune to be sicke) And that al vagaboundes, and masterles men in al other places, within this realme, shal also within iiii. dayes after the making of this proclamation, in the next market toun, where they shal fortune to be, departe likewise to the place where they were bozne, or last dwelled thre yerres within the realme, without longer tarieng by the way or going mo in company together, or fewer miles, in a day, then aforesaid: And vpon like paynes as is aforesayd for them which departe from London.

And furthermore, his maiestie straightly chargeth and comaundeth that no man be so hardy either to deuise any tale, rumor or talke, touching his maiestie, his Counsaill, Magistrates, Iustices, officers, or ministers, nor hearing any suche tale, rumor, or talke, to tel, repozte, or speake, the same agayne to any other person or persons, then to either one of his counsaill or to a Justice of peace, and there withall to shew also, of whome he had the same, to thintent that the same person, from whome the tale or rumor cometh, may

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be punished for the deuiling of it, if he deuiled it, or for the telling of it, to any other person, then by this proclamation is appointed.

And forbicause diuers Printers, Bokelers, and Platers of Enterludes, without consideration or regarde to the quiet of the realme, do print, sel, and play, whatsoeuer any light and phantastical hed listeth to inuent and deuise, wherby many inconueniences hath, and dayly doth arise and follow, amonge the kinges maiesties louping and faithful subiectes: His highnes therfore straightly chargeth and commaundeth that fromhencefurth, no printer or other person do print nor sel, within this Realme or any other his maiesties dominions, any matter in thenglish tōg, nor they nor any other persō, do sel, or otherwise dispose abrode any matter, printed in any foreyn dominion in thenglish tongue, onles thesame be firste allowed by his maiestie, or his priue counsayl in wyting signed with his maiesties most gracious hand or the handes of sixe of his sayd priue counsayl, vpon payne of Imprisonment, without bayle or mayneprice, and further fine at his maiesties pleasor. Nor that any cōmon players or other persons, vpon like paines, do play in thenglish tong, any maner Enterlude, play, or matter, without they haue special licence to shew for thesame in wyting vnder his maiesties signe, or signed by .vi. of his highnes priue counsaill willing & straightly charging & commaunding al Justices, Mayors, Shurifes, Bailifes, Constables, & other officers and ministers, diligently to enquire for, and serche out al maner offendors, within the limites and compasse of their commissions, and specially al suche as shal offend against any the pointes or brāches expressely setfurthe in this proclamation, and to punishe thesame without remission: Willing lykewise, and also straghtely charging and commaunding, al his good, true, louing and farthefull Subiectes to be aiding, helping, and assisting, to all and euery officer, in therecution of their charges, as they tender the fauor of his Maiestie, and the p̄seruation of the common wealthe, as they will aunswer to his Maiestie, for the contrary at their vttermost perill.

God saue the King.

RICHARDVS GRAFTON
typographus Regius
excudebat.

M. D. LI.

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